

the routine post-partum douche with bichloride solution 1:4000 is still advised. The author has very clearly stated the prevailing belief that the vagina in health requires no disinfection. Directions for the preparation for any obstetric operation through the vagina always includes the use of some antiseptic (usually lysol solution 1 per cent.). The chapter on septic infection is well illustrated with monochrome plates depicting the microscopic changes in the infected tissues. The dull irrigating curette is used to explore and disinfect the uterus. The conservatism of modern obstetrics is followed in discussing hysterectomy for puerperal sepsis. The chapters on obstetric surgery include 178 pages and details of antisepsis are described with great care. The author's experience with Cæsarean section has convinced him of its feasibility and wide application. With proper restrictions we find this operation recommended for many conditions; especially to be noted are accidental hemorrhage, face presentation with chin impacted beneath the sacral promontory, overgrowth of the foetus. Whenever rapid delivery is required in hospitals and clean private houses with an experienced operator and trained assistants the author believes Cæsarean section offers the quickest and safest method of delivery for mother and child. Symphysiotomy also has a recognized place among successful operations, its usefulness in pelvic contraction being restricted to cases where "the disproportion is not considerable, the birth canal dilated as in multiparæ, the mother and child in good condition, and the operation performed by a skilled surgeon." In the chapters upon the surgery of the puerperal state both primary and secondary repair of the cervix and pelvic floor are described and illustrated, the secondary operation being as elaborately discussed as in works on gynecology. The surgical treatment of ventral hernia and uterine displacements is also described in a separate chapter. Following an excellent and most practical chapter upon the diseases of infancy the work is concluded with an interesting discussion of the salient features of the jurisprudence of obstetrics.

R. C. N.

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LIFE INSURANCE EXAMINATIONS. A MANUAL FOR THE MEDICAL EXAMINER AND FOR ALL INTERESTED IN LIFE INSURANCE. By BRANDRETH SYMONDS, A.M., M.D., Medical Director Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York; Lecturer on Life Insurance Examinations at the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, The Knickerbocker Press, 1905.

In this interesting manual of life insurance examinations Dr. Symonds has divided the subject-matter into fifteen headings,

including two appendices, the latter being devoted to the consideration of the study of the urine and heart murmurs. Among these fifteen headings are chapters dealing with the relations of the medical examiner to the company which he serves and to the agents of the company, the examination of women, frauds and fraudulent practices, and several instructive mortality tables.

In the chapter on "Personal History of Disease" the author discusses seriatim the questions most common to the application blanks of the leading companies, and at the same time indicates the shades of meaning which the home offices require to be brought out by the examiners and the reasons therefor. There are other things than ability as diagnosticians required to make men successful life insurance examiners, and the interrelation of medicine, vital statistics, and business are most ably set forth by Dr. Symonds in this little work, which should prove a valuable guide to medical examiners throughout the country.

J. N. H.

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INTERNATIONAL CLINICS. Edited by A. O. J. KELLY, A.M., M.D., with various collaborators. Vol. IV., fourteenth series, 1905. Pp. 314. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1905.

This volume commences with a very readable article upon the excessive use of drugs in the treatment of chronic diseases in which especial reference is made to the medicinal intoxication by Hoyem, well known for his therapeutic work. It is needless to say that the untoward events described resulted from too little knowledge of, rather than too much zeal in, therapeutics. Javal suggests a very practical point, daily weighing, in giving the indications for the dechloridation treatment of anasarca in renal diseases. The value of radium is being ascertained for the same conditions for which the Roentgen rays but a few years ago were presented, and toward a conclusion Metzenbaum gives his observations. Lejan offers an unusual but instructive article on the treatment of patients who seem desperately ill in consequence of accident, hemorrhage, or infection. In medicine, Weber and Watson present a carefully observed instance of chronic polycythemia with enlarged spleen (Vaquez's disease), which they believe to be a disease of the bone-marrow. Solis Cohen takes up the importance of pathological and of etiological diagnosis, illustrated by several instances of joint disease, in a way that tends to clarify our knowledge and to greater exactness. Duckworth has reconsidered his former ideas, and now offers his more modern remarks on the "Incidence of Gout in the United States of America," and broadens his thesis by adding "and